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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/916,611

07/27/2001

Greg Volgas

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08/15/2008

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EXAMINER

PRYOR, ALTON NATHANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/15/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/916,611	Applicant(s) VOLGAS ET AL.	
	Examiner ALTON N. PRYOR	Art Unit 1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/9/08;5/13/08.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-18,20-28,30-39,41-48,50-65,82-85,87,89 and 91 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-18,20-28,30-39,41-48,50-65,82-85,87,89 and 91 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed 6/9/08 and 5/13/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. See argument below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3-18,20-28,30-39,41-48,50-65,82-85,87,89 and 91 are rejected as being obvious over USPN 5558806 and USPN 5078782. USPN '806 teaches a composition comprising acid pesticides such as 2,4-D, dicamba, triclopyr, picloram or copyralid and a surfactant blend comprising a polyalkyleneoxide polysiloxane and an organic compound such as block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, polyethylene oxide, mono-polyglucoside, alcohol alkoxyate, phosphate ester, ethoxy sulfate, etc. and optionally a crop oil concentrate, i.e., mineral oil or methylated soybean oil. See abstract, column 2 lines 21 – column 4 line 27, column 6 lines 26-42, column 9 line 52 – column 10 line 2, Example 4. USPN '806 discloses that the concentration of the pesticide active ingredient ranges from about 2 to about 75% by weight of the composition and preferably ranges in an amount of from about 4 to about 40%. USPN '806 teaches that the weight ratio of pesticide to surfactant blend ranges from about 1:99 to about 99:1 and ranges preferably from about 40:60 to about 60:40. See column

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9 lines 19-23,32-36. The '806 patent teaches a surfactant such as octyl alcohol ethoxylate (alcohol alkoxyate) can be added to the composition. The alcohol alkoxyate surfactant is recited in the instant claims. The '806 patent is silent to the amount of octyl alcohol ethoxylate and therefore silent to the ratio of acid herbicide to octyl alcohol alkoxyate. In the absence of unexpected results, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to determine the optimum amount and ratios of ingredients in order to produce a stable and effective composition. See column 3 line 38 – column 6 line 43. USPN '806 does not teach the instant invention comprising the ester of 2,4-D and an aromatic solvent. However, USPN '782 teaches pesticidal concentrates comprising 1-55% by weight of pesticides such as the ester of 2,4-D, dichlorprop or MCPA, 20-90% by weight of the oily surfactants such as mineral oil, spindle oil and vegetable oils (soy oil, rape seed oil, olive oil) and 1-45% by weight of a surfactant such as block polymers of ethylene and propylene oxide, polyalcohol, ethoxylated, propoxylated and co-ethoxylated/propoxylated polyalcohols, etc. plus aromatic solvents. See column 12 lines 14-22, column 10 lines 7-30, and column 8 lines 3-37. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the compositions taught in USPN '806 and '782 to arrive at an invention comprising 2,4-D, ester of 2,4-D, a mineral oil or methylated soybean oil, a polyalkyleneoxide polysiloxane and an aromatic solvent. It would have been obvious to for one try this combination since both individual patents teach the same utility.

Response to Applicants' Argument

The Applicants argue that the polysiloxane (silicone based) surfactant disclosed by Policello is unstable in acidic conditions, below pH 5. The Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to USPN 6300283 to support the instability of the instant polysiloxane at acidic pH. The Applicants state, "While not specifically disclosed in the in the applicant's application, the compositions the applicant describes have pH ranges generally well below 5.0." The Applicants refer the Examiner's attention to a Declaration and ASTM Publication STP 1234 filed 5/13/08 to support the instability of the polysiloxane at low pH. The Examiner argues that a pH requirement is not specified in the claims. The Examiner acknowledges that the silicone- based surfactants are excluded from the claims. Therefore, the "polysiloxane" surfactant has been deleted from the claims. For this reason, no further argument on the part of the Examiner regarding "polysiloxane" is necessary.

Telephonic Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALTON N. PRYOR whose telephone number is (571)272-0621. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alton N. Pryor/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616